

Remarks

Claims 4-9, 13-15, 20-24, 27, and 30-31 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

Claims 11, 14, 15, 26, 29, and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and have amended the claims accordingly. Specifically, claim 4 has been amended to include the features of claims 10 and 11, claim 14 has been amended to include the features of claims 1, 2, and 12, claim 20 has been amended to include the features of claims 25 and 26, and claim 27 has been amended to include the features of claims 17, 18, 28, and 29.

Claims 1-10 and 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Vangal et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2005/0165985). Claims 12, 13, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Vangal and Coffman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,718,370). These rejections are moot in view of the amendments detailed above.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/ John A. Merecki /

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